

Message Text

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14

ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8844

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

JCRC CP SMAE SAN THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, VS

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL DE HANN AND TINKER/RETURN OF
MARINE REMAINS

REF: BANGKOK 3939

1. DE HAAN AND TINKER WITH TWO US MARINE REMAINS ARRIVED AT DON MUANG ON UNHCR CHARTERED AIR FRANCE CARAVELLE AT 1350 HOURS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1976. THEY STATED THAT THEY WERE ON THE GROUND AT TAN SON NHUT ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES AND THAT THE TURN OVER CEREMONY THERE WAS SOLEMN AND PROPER.

2. AT DON MUANG, THE TRANSFER OF THE REMAINS FROM THE CAVARELLE TO THE USAF C-130 WAS HANDLED MOST PROFESSIONALLY BY JCRC AND WAS CONDUCTED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. DR. BERTA (UNHCR), WHILE PRESENT AT SCENE, DID NOT PARTICIPATE AS INDICATED IN REF. MSG. ALSO, THERE WERE SIX MILITARY HONOR GUARDS PLUS TWO ENLISTED MARINES FROM THE EMBASSY DETACHMENT WHO PARTICIPATED AS PALLBEARERS.

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THESE TWO MARINES HAD SERVED WITH AND PERSONALLY KNEW BOTH OF THE

DECEASED. NOTE: DCM MASTERS STOOD IN FOR THE AMBASSADOR WHO IS A GUEST OF HM THE KING OF THAILAND IN CHIANG MAI THIS WEEKEND. UPON COMPLETION OF THE TRANSFER, THE C-130 DEPARTED DON MUANG AT 1410 HOURS CARRYING THE REMAINS TO UTAPAO AND THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABRATORY.

3. DE HAAN AND TINKER DISCUSSED THEIR SAIGON TRIP WITH THE NEWS MEDIA AND ANY SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE.
WHITEHOUSE

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